Weekly Compilation of

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, November 14, 2008

The President's Radio Address

November 8, 2008

Good morning. Earlier this week, more than 120 million Americans went to the polls and voted for a new President and Congress. No matter how we cast our ballots, all Americans have reason to be proud of our democracy. Our citizens have chosen a President who represents a triumph of the American story, a testament to hard work, optimism, and faith in the enduring promise of our Nation.

When I called President-elect Obama to congratulate him on his historic victory, I told him that he can count on my complete cooperation as he makes his transition to the White House. Ensuring that this transition is seamless is a top priority for the rest of my time in office. Our country faces economic challenges that will not pause to let a new President settle in. This will also be America's first wartime Presidential transition in four decades. We're in a struggle against violent extremists determined to attack us, and they would like nothing more than to exploit this period of change to harm the American people.

So my administration will work hard to ensure that the next President and his team can hit the ground running. For more than a year now, the White House and agencies throughout the Federal Government have been preparing for a smooth transition. We've provided intelligence briefings to the President-elect, and the Department of Justice has approved security clearances for members of his transition staff. In the coming weeks, we will ask administration officials to brief the Obama team on major ongoing policy issues, ranging from the financial markets to the war in Iraq. I will keep the President-elect fully informed on important decisions during this critical time for our Nation. Taken together, these measures represent an unprecedented effort to ensure continuity throughout the executive branch.

A successful transition is just one of the many important tasks remaining for my administration. Yesterday we learned that America's economy lost jobs in the month of October, and I will continue working hard to return our Nation to the path of prosperity and growth. To help address the global financial crisis, my administration will host an historic international summit in Washington on November the 15th. We will also keep urging Congress to approve America's free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama and South Korea. We will continue working to defeat the terrorists and extremists abroad to keep the American people safe here at home.

Americans expect their President to conduct the people's business. I will continue to uphold this solemn obligation for as long as this office remains in my trust. In the meantime, I join the American people in wishing President-elect Obama every success. Laura and I wish the Obama family as much joy and happiness as our family has found in this wonderful house.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on November 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops and Their Families at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

November 10, 2008

Admiral, thank you very much for leading an amazing group of men and women who

provide such compassion and skill for those who have been wounded.

You know, I'm—appreciate the families who were so gracious to me here. One of the things I tell them is that their loved one is going to get fabulous medical care, and they do. It's inspiring to see the hard work. It's also inspiring to see the courage of the patients. I met some of the men that I'd seen 6 months ago; I came back, and they're totally different looking people. That's because of the good health care. It's also because of their mental framework. They've decided that nothing's going to get them down, and they battled back. And they're—a lot of them are doing really well.

So I want to thank you for your time, and it's been an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such fine men and women.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rear Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, USN, commander, National Naval Medical Center.

Notice—Continuation of National Emergency With Respect to Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 10, 2008

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, the President declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. On July 28, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13094 amending Executive Order 12938 to respond more effectively to the worldwide threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities. On June 28, 2005, I issued Executive Order 13382 that, *inter alia*, further amended Executive Order 12938 to improve our ability to combat proliferation. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; therefore, the national emergency first declared on November 14, 1994, and extended in each subsequent year, must continue. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 10, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 10, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 10, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2008.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 10, 2008

On November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the situation in Iran. Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2008. Therefore, consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year this national emergency with respect to Iran.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 10, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 12, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 11, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 11, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the Iran national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2008.

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran, beyond November 14, 2008.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks on Arrival in New York City

November 11, 2008

Veterans Day

As you can see, I have the honor of traveling with men and women who have volunteered to serve our Nation in a time of war. Behind me are five outstanding Americans representing each branch of the military service. I am with them today because we are celebrating Veterans Day.

Veterans have inspired troops such as these; veterans have inspired me. I was raised by a veteran. I appreciate the commitment to our country that the veterans have made. I am committed to making sure that today's veterans get all the health care and support they need from the Federal Government for agreeing to serve in a time of danger.

Our Nation is blessed because our liberties have been defended by brave men and women in the past. And we are blessed to have brave men and women defend our liberties today.

God bless our veterans. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. at John F. Kennedy International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to CPO Shenequa Cox, USN, Navy

Information Operations Command Hawaii; PO1 Christopher O. Hutto, USCG, Sector Jacksonville Aids to Navigation Team; S. Sgt. Michael Noyce-Mering, USA, B Company, 1–163d Cavalry Regiment, Montana National Guard; SrA. Alicia Goetschel, USAF, 100th Security Forces Squadron; and Sgt. John Badon, USMC, Basic School for Martial Arts Center of Excellence.

Remarks at a Rededication Ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City

November 11, 2008

Thank you all. Thank you for the warm welcome. Be seated. Charles and Rich, thanks a lot. I gratefully accept the Freedom Award. And I'm honored to be with you today as we rededicate a great monument to freedom, the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. At this ceremony, we recognize nearly 55,000 Americans who served aboard the USS *Intrepid*, including some who are here today. And we commemorate Veterans Day by honoring all those who have worn the uniform of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. Thank you for serving our great Nation.

I am proud to be traveling with the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, the most patient woman in America. [*Laughter*] Governor, thank you for joining us. Secretary Kempthorne, Senator Hillary Clinton, I'm proud to be with you. Thank you for being here. Congressman Pete King, Congressman Charlie Rangel, Congressman Anthony Weiner, thank you all for joining us today. Looking forward to that lame duck session, aren't we? [*Laughter*]

What an awesome guy General Jim Conway is, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and member of the Joint Chiefs. Christine Quinn, thank you for your remarks. Bill White, the Vanna White of the *Intrepid*. He's a—[*laughter*]. Arnold Fisher and the Fisher family—what a fabulous contribution the Fishers have made to the United States of America, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

John Rich—fellow Texan; John, tell them we're coming home, and we're coming home with our heads held high.

Members of the Intrepid Museum and Foundation board of trustees; wounded warriors—you know, oftentimes they ask me, "What are you going to miss about the Presidency?" And first reaction is, I say, "No traffic jams in New York." The truth of the matter is, I will miss being the Commander in Chief of such a fabulous group of men and women, those who wear the uniform of the United States military.

Veterans Day has a long and solemn history. The event that inspired it took place 90 years ago today in a small railway car in a French forest. November the 11th, 1918, the Allied Powers and Germany signed an armistice that ended one of the bloodiest wars the world had ever witnessed. By the time that day arrived, World War I had raged for more than 4 years, and more than 8 million soldiers had given their lives. But on the 11th hour of the 11th day of that 11th month, the guns fell silent and peace began to return to Europe.

To commemorate the war's end, President Woodrow Wilson declared that November the 11th should be remembered as Armistice Day, a holiday to honor the brave sacrifices of the American soldiers who defended democracy and freedom overseas. Today, we know it as Veterans Day, a day when we celebrate and thank and honor every man and woman who have served in our Armed Forces.

These noble Americans are our sons and daughters, they are our fathers and mothers, they are our family, and they are our friends. They leave home to do the work of patriots, and they lead lives of quiet dignity when they return. Today we send a clear message to all who have worn the uniform: Thank you for your courage, thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for standing up when your Nation needed you most.

In the years since we began celebrating Veterans Day, America's Armed Forces have defended our freedom in many conflicts. And in those conflicts, they have often relied on the might of the USS *Intrepid*.

The great ship's keel was laid on December 1, 1941. Less than a week later, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and America entered World War II. In the years to come, as the United States Navy defended the freedom

in the Pacific, the men of the "Fighting I" would be in the thick of the battle. The *Intrepid* participated in the invasion of the Marshall Islands. She played a key role in the amphibious assault on Okinawa. She was part of one of the greatest sea battles in history, the Battles of Leyte Gulf.

In that massive engagement, American forces faced some of the most formidable elements of the Japanese Navy. The Japanese fleet included the *Yamamato* [*Yamato*] * and the *Musashi*; these were the heaviest and the largest battleships ever constructed. The Imperial Navy approached the coast of the Philippines from three different directions, and it was a fearsome challenge, but the men of this ship were ready. The *Intrepid*'s air group fought courageously and without rest. By the time the battle ended 3 days later, the United States Navy had sunk the *Musashi* to the ocean floor and lifted hopes for victory in the Pacific.

The war ended the following year, but the *Intrepid*'s mission did not end. As the United States raced into the new frontier of space, the *Intrepid* stood by to retrieve astronauts returning to Earth. During the cold war, she patrolled the Mediterranean and helped force the surrender of pro-Castro terrorists who had hijacked a freighter in the Caribbean, and did three tours off the waters of Vietnam. For our Nation's bicentennial celebration, the United States Congress paid a fitting tribute to this ship's extraordinary service when they selected the *Intrepid* to represent the United States Navy in Philadelphia.

After more than 30 years at sea, the *Intrepid* was permanently decommissioned. Despite her amazing history, she was destined to be scrapped. But thanks to the work of the Intrepid Museum Foundation, she found a home in New York City. Since 1982, she has been a museum that educates new generations of Americans about the high price that those who came before them paid for their freedom.

One of the veterans who has been honored here was a Navy pilot who flew Avenger torpedo planes during World War II. When he was invited onboard the *Intrepid* for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, he was moved to see that the museum had arranged for a vintage Avenger, painted in the style of his unit, to be right here on the deck. It just so happens that it was flanked by two of the men who had flown in his squadron. The man the *Intrepid* honored that day is a great American. He's a dedicated servant to this country, and I can tell you from personal experience he's a fabulous father.

Even as a museum, the *Intrepid* still answered the call to service. I'm pretty certain most Americans don't understand what I'm about to tell you, but on September the 11th, when we came attacked just a few blocks from here, the *Intrepid* was used as an emergency command center. First-responders launched helicopters from the decks. It became clear that this ship, which helped defeat the great totalitarian threats of the 20th century, was front and center in the opening moments of a new struggle against the forces of hatred and fear.

The war on terror has required courage; it has required resolve equal to what previous generations of Americans brought to the fields of Europe and the deep waters of the Pacific. And I'm proud to report to my fellow citizens, our Armed Forces, the Armed Forces of this generation, have showed up for the fight. And America is more secure for it.

This morning, Laura and I flew up here with some brave men and women who are keeping us safe. I want to introduce them to you.

Staff Sergeant Michael Noyce-Merino was the first National Guardsman ever to be named the Army's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Senior Airman Alicia Goetschel was named one of the Air Force's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for her work in keeping dangerous extremists off the streets of Iraq. Chief Petty Officer Shenequa Cox won several awards recognizing her as one of the Navy's finest sailors. Petty Officer First Class Chris Hutto was honored as the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year. And United States Marine Sergeant John Badon's bravery earned him two Purple Hearts for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Where are my new pals? God bless you.

* White House correction.

They are representatives of the finest our Nation offers. And they have the support of strong and caring and loving families. And so on this Veterans Day, not only do we honor those who have worn the uniform, those who are wearing the uniform, we honor their families. And we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

We have a moral obligation to support our families, and we have a moral obligation to support our veterans. It has been my privilege to work with Members of the United States Congress to nearly double the funding for those who have worn the uniform. It has been my privilege to work to implement the recommendations from the Dole-Shalala Commission, to make sure that we have a mental health care system and physical health care system worthy of the sacrifice of those who have worn the uniform.

It has been my privilege to work with the United States Congress to expand education benefits for both members of our military as well as our veterans. It has been my privilege to say loud and clear to our veterans: We love you, we respect you, and we thank you for serving the United States of America.

And I love what the Intrepid Relief Fund and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund have done to support our veterans as well. They provided more than $100 million to military families in need. The Intrepid's Fisher House program has provided temporary housing for families of service men and women receiving medical treatment.

At the center for the Intrepid's physical rehabilitation facility in San Antonio, Texas, America's wounded warriors receive some incredible medical care. I have seen what happens in this place of healing and hope firsthand. The Intrepid Center brings great compassion to those who have worn and are wearing the uniform. It also shows that the American people are incredibly generous in supporting the veterans. And I want to thank the Intrepid members, and those who support the Intrepid foundations, for your work on behalf of our country.

Throughout the decades, our service men and women have shown a spirit of selfless courage. I was impressed by the story of Alonzo Swann, who on October 29, 1944, here on the deck of the *Intrepid*, had to help his fellow sailors deal with a kamikaze attack. He saw his best friend burning alive and caught in a gun mount. He rushed into the flames. He attempted to save his buddy, but before he could do so, an ammunition bin detonated; nine were killed, six injured, including Alonzo.

For his bravery, he was awarded the Bronze Star. It's a high honor, but a lot of folks didn't think it was a high enough honor. They felt he deserved the Navy Cross, and many believed that he had been denied the Navy Cross because of the color of his skin—he was an African American. For 50 years his advocates petitioned the Government, and for 50 years they were unsuccessful. But he kept the faith. November 3, 1993, under the Presidency of my predecessor, President Bill Clinton, right here on the deck of the *Intrepid*, Alonzo Swann finally received his Navy Cross. And I want people to listen to what he said. He said, "If you think you're right, fight your heart out." That ought to be the motto of the modern United States military. You think you're right, and you're fighting your heart out for the sake of peace and freedom, and we thank you for it.

Laura and I are honored to be here. We're honored to see this majestic place. I love the fact that parents can answer a child's question about "Why fight?" with this answer: These brave souls fought for freedom, they fought for liberty, and they fought to guarantee the rights given to us by our Creator. And that has been the history of our Armed Forces—brave folks, the mightiest defenders of those unalienable rights.

So on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank our veterans for your service, for your commitment. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Charles de Gunzburg and Richard Santulli, cochairmen, and Arnold Fisher, chairman emeritus, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum board of trustees; Gov. David A. Paterson of New York; Christine C. Quinn, speaker, New York City Council; Bill White, president, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum; television personality Vanna White; and entertainer John Rich.

Remarks Honoring 2008 NCAA Championship Teams

November 12, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the White House, champions day here on the South Lawn. We appreciate you coming. We appreciate the fact that as champions you have set goals and you have worked hard to achieve those goals.

I appreciate very much the fact that you brought your coaches with you and people at your universities who support you. I'm proud to welcome the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, his wife Molly, and daughter Ella. He is here because he is a graduate of Northwestern University. Of course, you're probably here to cheer all the teams, right? Yes.

I want to welcome other members of the administration, school officials, families, and fans. First team I want to honor is the team for which we have called upon this weather: the University of Alaska Fairbanks rifle team. [*Laughter*] The Nanooks are with us today. You won your 10th national championship and your third in a row. I want to welcome coach Dan Jordan and the folks from Fairbanks—University of Alaska Fairbanks. I asked the captain, "Who did you beat to get here?" And he said, "Army." [*Laughter*] The folks at West Point need to practice. [*Laughter*] These guys make good competition to you. Congratulations. Welcome. And we are glad you're here.

A lot of teams from the State of Arizona have joined us. We put this weather on just for you. [*Laughter*]

The University of Arizona men's and women's swimming and diving teams are here. In March, the women defeated Auburn to win the national championship, and 1 week later, the men handily beat the University of Texas. We welcome you here. This is the first national championship for either team. And I got the feeling, having talked to some of the athletes, this will not be the last time you'll be at the White House, even though it will be my last time here at the White House. [*Laughter*] Coach Frank Busch—no relation—and the mighty Arizona men and women's team, congratulations, and we welcome you.

The Arizona State University men's and women's indoor track and field team have joined us today. There you are. The Sun Devil men and women both took home indoor track and field championships. This was the first indoor title for the men and a repeat for the women. You have a great leader and coach, Greg Kraft, and we're glad to welcome you back. Congratulations, and thanks.

Arizona State softball team are with us today. [*Applause*] Seems to be some support out there for women's softball. You're looking at a big women's softball supporter. You went 66–5, and 10–0 during the post-season to capture the Sun Devils' first NCAA softball national title. When Coach Clint Myers arrived 3 years ago, he promised that you would win a national title. That's a pretty bold promise, Coach Myers, and you've delivered. And you thanked him by dumping Gatorade all over him. [*Laughter*] I hope you sent them the cleaning bill.

The Florida State men's outdoor track and field team have joined us today, the mighty Seminoles. This is your third straight title. Coach Bob Braman told me that he—last year, he said, "We'll be back, Mr. President." I said, "I'll be here too." You're in the process of winning; you produced nine All-Americans. Congratulations on another great championship.

The Northwestern University women's lacrosse team; they finished 21–1. I must tell you, I was slightly disappointed when I came in the White House room there and looked at the feet of those women. I was looking for flip-flops. [*Laughter*] Coach Kathy—Kelly Hiller led you to the fourth straight national title over Penn, and here is what she said: "I'm not going to call ourselves a dynasty, but if you want to, I'm okay with it." [*Laughter*] Welcome back, a dynasty. Congratulations, ladies.

LSU women's outdoor track and field team, straight out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. [*Laughter*] It came down to the wire, the very last event of the very last day was the 4x400, and you won. And now you are the national champs. We welcome Coach Dennis Shaver and the women from Louisiana State University.

I'm proud to welcome back Coach John Murphy's Brown University women's rowing

team. This is the second straight year that the women have been back; this is your sixth national championship in less than a decade. You are the most successful crew in NCAA women's rowing history. Congratulations, and welcome back to the White House.

And finally, Fresno State men's baseball. So you talk about a team that refused to quit. This team lost 12 of the first 20 games of the season. I suspect some of you wrote you off, you know, like—[*laughter*]—8 and 12? These guys call themselves champs? You needed to win your conference tournament just to make the NCAA field of 64 teams. Six times in post-season you were only one game away from elimination. Every time you held on, and you became national champs. No wonder the ESPYs nominated you for the best upset of the year.

I thank you for your willingness to never say die, your willingness to keep fighting. Steve Detwiler said this—he played with an injury by the way—he said: "It's mind over matter. The pain is temporary; the pride is forever." And I suspect, Steve, a lot of athletes, whether they were on your team or on the teams represented here, can testify that pride is forever. This is a prideful moment for you.

We are glad you're here at the White House. I thank you for being good champions on the field. I thank you for being champs off the field. I'm proud you're here at this grand house of the people. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Patrik Sartz, co-captain, University of Alaska Fairbanks rifle team; and Steve Detwiler, outfielder, Fresno State men's baseball team.

Remarks at the 2008 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner

November 12, 2008

Thank you, Frank, and thanks for this great honor. I accept it gratefully, but it ought to be offered to the American people.

Laura and I are thrilled to be with you. I am always a better man when my wife is by my side.

I want to thank Jules Coles, the president of Africare; Maria Walker, the widow of Bishop John Walker. I was thinking coming over, "Let's see, I'm George Walker Bush"—[*laughter*]. I don't know; what do you think? [*Laughter*] Anyway, Madam—Ms. Walker, thank you very much for joining us.

I want to thank the members of the Africare board of directors for this honor, but more importantly, for the work you do in Africa.

I thank my friend, Congressman Don Payne, who's one of the leading—[*applause*]—the leading authorities in the United States Congress on African affairs. I'm pleased members of my administration have joined me and Laura here tonight.

Henrietta Fore, Administrator of USAID; the head of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Ambassador John Danilovich; the U.S. Malaria Coordinator, Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer—thank you for coming, Admiral.

I'm pleased to be here with Lloyd Pierson, President and CEO of African Development Foundation; Ron Tschetter, Director of the mighty Peace Corps.

Laura and I have the privilege of hosting Bill Frist and his wife, Karyn, at the White House tonight. Make sure you make your bed, Senator, but we thank you for coming.

I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps. We are proud you are here tonight.

I'm in pretty good company when it comes to this Humanitarian Service Award. Jules said, "Man, you're hanging out with some good folks." Last year's award winner went to—recipient was President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, a great woman. Last year's dinner speaker was, in fact, my wife Laura. And frankly, knowing both women, I am not sure which is a harder act to follow.

I really am glad Laura is here because our work in Africa—and I say our collective work in Africa—is a labor of love for us. Laura and I have been to Africa a lot. She has worked in an effective way to help promote education and health. Our girls, Barbara and Jenna, have done a lot of work to help promote dignity on the continent of Africa, particularly with those folks living with HIV/

AID. I am proud of their work, and I'm proud of the work of millions of our fellow citizens. It is amazing to me that when you go to Africa, the number of Americans you meet who are living out the universal call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, who are hearing that admonition that to whom much is given, much is required. America—[*applause*].

I appreciate those who support Africare. I thank you for your work in caring for orphans in Uganda or fighting polio in Angola or resettling refugees from Sudan. I thank you for the work you do in 20 nations on the continent of Africa. And in that work, you are carrying out the vision of the man we honor, Bishop John Walker.

When he was a young clergyman in the sixties, he traveled to Uganda. He was welcomed in the homes of people who needed his message of love. That experience convinced Bishop Walker that Africa's greatest treasure is not its spectacular scenery or natural resources, but it is the determined spirit of its people.

Bishop Walker understood that disease and poverty and injustice are great challenges. But he also knew that the people of Africa have the talent and ambition and resolve to overcome them. And frankly, that has been the heart of our policy toward Africa. We do not believe in paternalism; we believe in partnership, because we believe in the potential of the people on the continent of Africa.

I've had a lot of uplifting experiences as the President. And one of the most uplifting experiences has been to witness a new and more hopeful era dawning on the continent. Over the past 8 years, it's been moving to watch courageous Africans root out corruption and open up their economies and invest in the prosperity of their people. The United States stands with these leaders as partners and friends and allies in hope through the work of the Millennium Challenge Account.

On my trip to Africa this February, I joined President Kikwete of Tanzania to sign a 5-year, nearly $700 million Millennium Challenge compact, which will help build up Tanzania's infrastructure. And as part of this compact, Africare is helping to extend electricity to homes and businesses in some of the most remote areas of the country. My fellow citizens need to hear what President Kikwete said. He said that the Millennium Challenge program is a "source of pride"—"making it possible for the people of Tanzania to chart a brighter future."

Notice he didn't say, making it possible for the American people to chart a brighter future for Tanzania. He said, making it possible for the citizens of Tanzania to chart their own future.

It is uplifting to see people freed from hunger and thirst. And I'm proud of the fact that the American people have supported programs to help feed tens of millions of people on the continent. And I appreciate the work of people here in Africare for helping on that work. Your organization has partnered with our government to address the lack of clean and safe drinking water. This is one of the greatest challenges to development in African nations, and through your efforts this evening, you're helping to overcome it.

On a way—one way our country is working with African governments is to provide safe water through private-public partnerships, and one such innovative program is called the PlayPumps Alliance. Mr. Dale Jones of PlayPumps International is with us today. You probably may not have heard of PlayPumps Alliance—it's kind of hard for me to say. [*Laughter*] But here's the way it works: PlayPumps are children's merry-go-rounds attached to a water pump and a storage tank, and so when the wheel turns, clean water is produced. Laura and Jenna helped to get one of these new pumps moving during their visit to a Zambian school. As the wheel spun, children on the merry-go-round shouted and laughed with joy. At the same time, they helped to keep their friends in good health.

There are innovative ways to express the compassion of the American people on the continent of Africa. And I want to thank PlayPumps International for being one of the innovators.

On my trips to Africa, it has been uplifting to see people fulfilling their God-given potential, thanks to a good education. The African Education Initiative was mentioned, but a part of that initiative is the fact that we've

trained 700,000 teachers, distributed more than 10 million textbooks, and provided hundreds of thousands of scholarships to help girls go to school.

In Liberia, I met a woman named Deddeh Zaizay, who told me that her husband had abandoned her and her three children because she was illiterate. Deddeh is learning to read. She proudly declared in front of the President of Liberia that she plans to go to college. And she has set her sights high; she wants to be the President of Liberia one day.

I do not see how you can have a hopeful life if your mother and father is dying of HIV/AIDS or your baby is dying needlessly because of a mosquito bite. And so we have taken a strong stand against deadly disease. Through the malaria initiative, we've partnered with African nations to dramatically reduce infection rates and save lives. Laura and I saw the good work of the American people and the good work of Africare at firsthand in Tanzania's Meru District Hospital. New mothers bring their babies into the hospital; they have them tested for malaria and HIV. Nurses distribute bed net vouchers, where mothers can use to buy insecticide-treated bed nets.

Laura and I met the mothers. I cannot tell you the expression of pride they had on their face when they held their babies up and said, "My baby is healthy." Nothing more hopeful than to see the joy on a mother's face, realizing that her baby has escaped the scourge of the deadly disease of malaria. I thank all those in this audience and around our Nation who have helped this malaria initiative become robust and effective.

And then, of course, there's the extraordinary story—stories related to PEPFAR. We launched the initiative in 2003; only 50,000 people in sub-Sahara Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment. Today, as was mentioned, we support treatment for nearly 1.7 million people in the region. Africare is making vital contributions to this effort. And with your help, people across Africa now speak of a Lazarus effect: Communities once given up for dead are being brought back to life.

Laura and I have seen this miracle with our own eyes. I'm sure many of you have as well. She traveled to South Africa in 2005; Laura visited a PEPFAR-supported clinic for HIV-positive pregnant women. There she met Kunene Tantoh. When Kunene first arrived at the clinic, she virtually had no immune system left. But with the treatment she received, Kunene survived. Not only did she survive, 2 years later she was in the Rose Garden at the White House. She brought with him—she brought with her, her son, Baron. She wanted Laura and me to see an HIV-free baby. Baron is a reminder of the many lives that have been touched and saved by the compassion of the American people. And he represents the bright and promising future awaiting the folks in Africa.

In our visits to the continent, we have been overwhelmed by the affection and gratitude that the African people show to the American people. Oh, a lot of people are out there saying, "Why should I care about Africa? What good does it do me, Mr. President, for our government to support Africa?" Well, I'll tell you what good it does. One, it is in our national security interest that we defeat hopelessness. It is in our economic interest that we help economies grow. And it is in our moral interest that when we find hunger and suffering, the United States of America responds in a robust and effective way.

I thank Africare for being on the leading edge of this transformative series of initiatives. I hope you feel as good about your contribution as I feel as good about our Government's contribution to doing what's right. I'm honored to receive this award. I am honored to be the President of the most compassion, greatest nation on the face of the Earth. God bless you, and God bless the people of America and Africa.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:19 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to W. Frank Fountain, chairman, Africare; former Senator William H. Frist; and Dale E. Jones, chief executive officer, PlayPumps International.

Remarks to the United Nations High-Level Debate on Interfaith Dialogue in New York City

November 13, 2008

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: Laura and I are pleased to be back here at the United Nations, and I am grateful for the opportunity to once again address the General Assembly.

I want to thank King Abdallah of Saudi Arabia for his leadership and for convincing us all to come together to speak about faith. I appreciate the participants who recognize the transformative and uplifting power of faith.

One of my core beliefs is that there is an Almighty God and that every man, woman, and child on the face of this Earth bears His image. Many years ago, faith changed my life. Faith has sustained me through the challenges and the joys of my Presidency, and faith will guide me for the rest of my days.

I know many of the leaders gathered in this assembly have been influenced by faith as well. We may profess different creeds and worship in different places, but our faith leads us to common values. We believe God calls us to love our neighbors and to treat one another with compassion and respect. We believe God calls us to honor the dignity of all life and to speak against cruelty and injustice. We believe God calls us to live in peace and to oppose all those who use His name to justify violence and murder.

Freedom is God's gift to every man, woman, and child. And that freedom includes the right of all people to worship as they see fit. Sixty years ago, members of the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged this truth when we adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration proclaims that everyone has the right to choose or change religions and the right to worship in private or in public.

The United States strongly supported the adoption of the Universal Declaration. In fact, the American delegation was led by a former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. When we voted for the Universal Declaration, the American people reaffirmed a conviction that dates back to our earliest days. Our Nation was founded by people seeking haven from religious persecution. The first amendment of our Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion for all. And through the generations, our Nation has helped defend the religious liberty of others, from liberating the concentration camps of Europe to protecting Muslims in places like Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Today, the United States is carrying on that noble tradition by making religious liberty a central element of our foreign policy. We've established a Commission on the International Religious Freedom to monitor the state of religious liberty worldwide. We strongly encourage nations to understand that religious freedom is the foundation of a healthy and hopeful society. We're not afraid to stand with religious dissidents and believers who practice their faith, even where it is unwelcome.

One of the best ways to safeguard religious freedom is to aid the rise of democracy. Democratic governments don't all look alike. Each reflects the history and traditions of its own people. But one way—but one of the defining features of any democracy is that it makes room for people of all backgrounds and all faiths. Democracies allow people with diverse views to discuss their differences and live in harmony.

The expansion of democracy also represents the most promising path to peace. People who are free to express their opinions can challenge the ideologies of hate. They can defend their religious beliefs and speak out against those seeking to twist them to evil ends. They can prevent their children from falling under the sway of extremists by giving them a more hopeful alternative.

Over the past 8 years, I've been privileged to see how freedom and faith can lift up lives and lead the world toward peace. I remember clearly a congregation in the State of Kansas, in my country, whose members stayed together and prayed together, even when a tornado had torn down their church. I've seen faithful caregivers on the continent of Africa who take AIDS patients given up for dead and restore them to health. I have seen mothers across the Middle East whose faith leads them to dream of a better and more peaceful future for their children, a

dream shared by mothers all around the world.

I appreciate every nation participating in today's dialog. Through dialog we can draw closer to the day when our prayers for freedom and peace are answered, and every person on Earth enjoys the rights and dignity granted by an Almighty God.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks to the Manhattan Institute in New York City

November 13, 2008

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you. Larry, thank you for the introduction. Thank you for giving Laura and me a chance to come to this historic hall to talk about a big issue facing the world. And today I appreciate you giving me a chance to come and for me to outline the steps that America and our partners are taking and are going to take to overcome this financial crisis.

And I thank the Manhattan Institute for all you have done. I appreciate the fact that I am here in a fabulous city to give this speech. People say, "Are you confident about our future?" And the answer is, absolutely. And it's easy to be confident when you're in a city like New York City. After all, there is an unbelievable spirit in this city. This is the city whose skyline has offered immigrants their first glimpse of freedom. This is the city where people rallied when that freedom came under attack. This is the city whose capital markets have attracted investments from around the world and financed the dreams of entrepreneurs all across America. This is the city that has been and will always be the financial capital of the world.

And I am grateful to be in the presence of two men who served ably and nobly New York City, Mayor Koch and Mayor Giuliani. Thank you all for coming. Glad you're here. I thank the Manhattan Institute board of trustees and its chairman, Paul Singer, for doing good work, being a good policy center. And before I begin, I must say, I would hope that Ray Kelly would tell New York's finest how much I appreciate the incredible hospitality that we are always shown here in New York City. You're the head of a fabulous police force, and we thank you very much, sir.

We live in a world in which our economies are interconnected. Prosperity and progress have reached farther than any time in our history. Unfortunately, as we have seen in recent months, financial turmoil anywhere in the world affects economies everywhere in the world. And so this weekend I'm going to host a summit on financial markets and the world economy with leaders from developed and developing nations that account for nearly 90 percent of the world economy. Leaders of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, and the Financial Stability Forum are going to be there as well. We'll have dinner at the White House tomorrow night, and we'll meet most of the day on Saturday.

The leaders attending this weekend's meeting agree on a clear purpose: to address the current crisis and to lay the foundation for reforms that will help prevent a similar crisis in the future. We also agree that this undertaking is too large to be accomplished in a single session. The issues are too complex, the problem is too significant to try to solve or to come up with reasonable recommendations in just one meeting. So this summit will be the first of a series of meetings.

It will focus on five key objectives: understanding the causes of the global crisis; reviewing the effectiveness of our responses thus far; developing principles for reforming our financial and regulatory systems; launching a specific action plan to implement those principles; and reaffirming our conviction that free market principles offer the surest path to lasting prosperity.

First, we're working toward a common understanding of the causes behind the global crisis. Different countries will naturally bring different perspectives, but there are some points on which we can all agree.

Over the past decade, the world experienced a period of strong economic growth.

Nations accumulated huge amounts of savings and looked for safe places to invest them. Because of our attractive political, legal, and entrepreneurial climates, the United States and other developed nations received a large share of that money.

The massive inflow of foreign capital, combined with low interest rates, produced a period of easy credit. And that easy credit especially affected the housing market. Flush with cash, many lenders issued mortgages, and many borrowers could not afford them. Financial institutions then purchased these loans, packaged them together, and converted them into complex securities designed to yield large returns. These securities were then purchased by investors and financial institutions in the United States and Europe and elsewhere, often with little analysis of their true underlying value.

The financial crisis was ignited when the booming housing markets began to decline. As home values dropped, many borrowers defaulted on their mortgages, and institutions holding securities backed by those mortgages suffered serious losses. Because of outdated regulatory structures and poor risk management practices, many financial institutions in America and Europe were too highly leveraged. When capital ran short, many faced severe financial jeopardy. This led to high-profile failures of financial institutions in America and Europe, led to contractions and widespread anxiety, all of which contributed to sharp declines in the equity markets.

These developments have placed a heavy burden on hard-working people around the world. Stock market drops have eroded the value of retirement accounts and pension funds. The tightening of credit has made it harder for families to borrow money for cars or home improvements or education of the children. Businesses have found it harder to get loans to expand their operations and create jobs. Many nations have suffered job losses and have serious concerns about the worsening economy. Developing nations have been hit hard as nervous investors have withdrawn their capital.

We are faced with the prospect of a global meltdown. And so we've responded with bold measures. I'm a market-oriented guy, but not when I'm faced with the prospect of a global meltdown. And at Saturday's summit, we're going to review the effectiveness of our actions.

Here in the United States, we have taken unprecedented steps to boost liquidity, recapitalize financial institutions, guarantee most new debt issued by insured banks, and prevent the disorderly collapse of large, interconnected enterprises. These were historic actions taken necessary to make—necessary so that the economy would not melt down and affect millions of our fellow citizens.

In Europe, governments are also purchasing equity in banks and providing government guarantees for loans. In Asia, nations like China and Japan and South Korea have lowered interest rates and have launched significant economic stimulus plans. In the Middle East, nations like Kuwait and the UAE have guaranteed deposits and opened up new government lending to banks.

In addition, nations around the world have taken unprecedented joint measures. Last month, a number of central banks carried out a coordinated interest rate cut. The Federal Reserve is extending needed liquidity to central banks around the world. The IMF and World Bank are working to ensure that developing nations can weather this crisis.

This crisis did not develop overnight, and it's not going to be solved overnight. But our actions are having an impact. Credit markets are beginning to thaw. Businesses are gaining access to essential short-term financing. A measure of stability is returning to financial systems here at home and around the world. It's going to require more time for these improvements to fully take hold, and there's going to be difficult days ahead. But the United States and our partner are taking the right steps to get through this crisis.

In addition to addressing the current crisis, we will also need to make broader reforms to strengthen the global economy over the long term. This weekend, leaders will establish principles for adapting our financial systems to the realities of the 21st century marketplace. We will discuss specific actions we can take to implement these principles. We will direct our finance ministers to work with

other experts and report back to us with detailed recommendations on further reasonable actions.

One vital principle of reform is that our nations must make our financial markets more transparent. For example, we should consider improving accounting rules for securities, so that investors around the world can understand the true value of the assets they purchase.

Secondly, we must ensure that markets, firms, and financial products are properly regulated. For example, credit default swaps—financial products that insure against potential losses—should be processed through centralized clearinghouses instead of through unregulated, over-the-counter markets. By bringing greater stability to this large and important financial sector, we reduce the risk to our overall financial systems.

Third, we must enhance the integrity of our financial markets. For example, authorities in every nation should take a fresh look at the rules governing market manipulation and fraud and ensure that investors are properly protected.

Fourth, we must strengthen cooperation among the world's financial authorities. For example, leading nations should better coordinate national laws and regulations. We should also reform international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank, which are based largely on the economic order of 1944. To better reflect the realities of today's global economy, both the IMF and World Bank should modernize their governance structures. They should consider extending greater voter—voting power to dynamic developing nations, especially as they increase their contributions to these institutions. They should consider ways to streamline their executive boards and make them more representative.

In addition, these important—to these management changes, we should move forward with other reforms to make the IMF and World Bank more transparent, accountable, and effective. For example, the IMF should agree to work more closely with member countries to ensure that their exchange rate policies are market-oriented and fair. And the World Bank should ensure its development programs reflect the priorities of the people they are designed to serve and focus on measurable results.

All these steps require decisive actions from governments around the world. At the same time, we must recognize that government intervention is not a cure-all. For example, some blame the crisis on insufficient regulation of the American mortgage market. But many European countries had much more extensive regulations and still experienced problems almost identical to our own.

History has shown that the greater threat to economic prosperity is not too little government involvement in the market, it is too much government involvement in the market. We saw this in the case of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Because these firms were chartered by the United States Congress, many believed they were backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Investors put huge amounts of money into Fannie and Freddie, which they used to build up irresponsibly large portfolios of mortgage-backed securities. And when the housing market declined, these securities, of course, plummeted in value. It took a taxpayer-funded rescue to keep Fannie and Freddie from collapsing in a way that would have devastated the global financial system. And there is a clear lesson: Our aim should not be more government, it should be smarter government.

All this leads to the most important principle that should guide our work. While reforms in the financial sector are essential, the long-term solution to today's problems is sustained economic growth. And the surest path to that growth is free markets and free people.

This is a decisive moment for the global economy. In the wake of the financial crisis, voices from the left and right are equating the free enterprise system with greed and exploitation and failure. It's true this crisis includes failures by lenders and borrowers and by financial firms and by governments and independent regulators. But the crisis was not a failure of the free market system. And the answer is not to try to reinvent that system. It is to fix the problems we face, make the reforms we need, and move forward with the free market principles that

have delivered prosperity and hope to people all across the globe.

Like any other system designed by men, capitalism is not perfect. It can be subject to excesses and abuse. But it is by far the most efficient and just way of structuring an economy. At its most basic level, capitalism offers people the freedom to choose where they work and what they do, the opportunity to buy or sell products they want, and the dignity that comes with profiting from their talent and hard work. The free market system provides the incentives that lead to prosperity: the incentive to work, to innovate, to save, to invest wisely, and to create jobs for others. And as millions of people pursue these incentives together, whole societies benefit.

Free market capitalism is far more than economic theory. It is the engine of social mobility, the highway to the American Dream. It's what makes it possible for a husband and wife to start their own business or a new immigrant to open a restaurant or a single mom to go back to college and to build a better career. It is what allowed entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley to change the way the world sells products and searches for information. It's what transformed America from a rugged frontier to the greatest economic power in history, a nation that gave the world the steamboat and the airplane, the computer and the CAT scan, the Internet and the iPod.

Ultimately, the best evidence for free market capitalism is its performance compared to other economic systems. Free markets allowed Japan, an island with few natural resources, to recover from war and grow into the world's second largest economy. Free markets allowed South Korea to make itself into one of the most technologically advanced societies in the world. Free markets turned small areas like Singapore and Hong Kong and Taiwan into global economic players. Today, the success of the world's largest economies comes from their embrace of free markets.

Meanwhile, nations that have pursued other models have experienced devastating results. Soviet communism starved millions, bankrupted an empire, and collapsed as decisively as the Berlin Wall. Cuba, once known for its vast fields of cane, is now forced to ration sugar. And while Iran sits atop giant oil reserves, its people cannot put enough gasoline in its—in their cars.

The record is unmistakable. If you seek economic growth, if you seek opportunity, if you seek social justice and human dignity, the free market system is the way to go. And it would be a terrible mistake to allow a few months of crisis to undermine 60 years of success.

Just as important as maintaining free markets within countries is maintaining the free movement of goods and services between countries. When nations open up their markets to trade and investment, their businesses and farmers and workers find new buyers for their products. Consumers benefit from more choices and better prices. Entrepreneurs can get their ideas off the ground with funding from anywhere in the world. Thanks in large part to open markets, the volume of global trade today is nearly 30 times greater than it was six decades ago, and some of the most dramatic gains have come in the developing world.

As President, I have seen the transformative power of trade up close. I've been to a Caterpillar factory in East Peoria, Illinois, where thousands of good-paying American jobs are supported by exports. I've walked the grounds of a trade fair in Ghana, where I met women who support their families by exporting handmade dresses and jewelry. I've spoken with a farmer in Guatemala who decided to grow high-value crops he could sell overseas and helped create more than 1,000 jobs.

Stories like these show why it is so important to keep markets open to trade and investment. This openness is especially urgent during times of economic strain. Shortly after the stock market crash in 1929, Congress passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, a protectionist measure designed to wall off America's economy from global competition. The result was not economic security; it was economic ruin. And leaders around the world must keep this example in mind and reject the temptation of protectionism.

There are clear-cut ways for nations to demonstrate the commitment to open markets. The United States Congress has an immediate opportunity by approving free trade agreements with Colombia, Peru [Panama],* and South Korea. America and other wealthy nations must also ensure this crisis does not become an excuse to reverse our engagement with the developing world. And developing nations should continue policies that foster enterprise and investment. As well, all nations should pledge to conclude a framework this year that leads to a successful Doha agreement.

We're facing this challenge together, and we're going to get through it together. The United States is determined to show the way back to economic growth and prosperity. I know some may question whether America's leadership in the global economy will continue. The world can be confident that it will, because our markets are flexible, and we can rebound from setbacks. We saw that resilience in the 1940s, when America pulled itself out of Depression, marshaled a powerful army, and helped save the world from tyranny. We saw that resilience in the 1980s, when Americans overcame gas lines, turned stagflation into strong economic growth, and won the cold war. We saw that resilience after September the 11th, 2001, when our Nation recovered from a brutal attack, revitalized our shaken economy, and rallied the forces of freedom in the great ideological struggle of the 21st century.

The world will see the resilience of America once again. We will work with our partners to correct the problems in the global financial system. We will rebuild our economic strength, and we will continue to lead the world toward prosperity and peace.

Thanks for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:58 p.m. at the Federal Hall National Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Lawrence J. Mone, president, Manhattan Institute; former Mayors Edward I. Koch and Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; and Raymond W. Kelly, commissioner, New York City Police Department. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

* White House correction.

Statement on the Klamath River Basin Conservation Agreement

November 13, 2008

I congratulate the many people of the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California who recently put forward a shared vision for conservation of the river. The agreement my administration announced today with Oregon, California, and PacifiCorp, the company that owns four hydropower dams on the Klamath River, will advance that vision. Federal, State, and private partners will now begin studying the feasibility of removing four hydropower dams on the river. This is the first phase of a long-term conservation program for upriver salmon habitats.

This agreement turns what was a conflict into a conservation success. For years, there had been disagreement among irrigators, States, tribes, conservationists, and others. Beginning with the drought of 2001, the community, working in partnership with the Federal Government, rallied together to find a long-term solution. Since 2002, my administration has requested and Congress has provided approximately $90 million annually—a total of more than $500 million—for Klamath Basin activities. Working together, the Federal Government and its partners have restored irrigation and more than 10,000 acres of fish habitat and banked for conservation more than 800,000 acre-feet of water. These actions have provided adequate water for farmers while also helping species recover.

Together we have produced an agreement that will greatly reduce the risk of future shutdowns of the irrigation system. I applaud this example of cooperative conservation and thank everyone who worked to bring it about.

Proclamation 8319—America Recycles Day, 2008

November 14, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On America Recycles Day, we highlight the importance of recycling as a way to safeguard and protect the environment and preserve our precious natural resources.

We live in a country of splendor and beauty, and no matter which State each of us calls home, we all have a responsibility to practice good environmental stewardship. It is in our Nation's best interest that government, businesses, community organizations, and individuals work together to conserve our natural resources. The Environmental Protection Agency, through its Resource Conservation Challenge, is encouraging communities to increase recycling collection. Through the Plug-In To eCycling Campaign, we are working to make it easier for Americans to donate or safely recycle old electronics, including TVs, computers, and cell phones. By recycling we can strengthen local economies, reduce greenhouse gases, conserve natural resources, and save landfill space. Using our resources wisely, we can make our communities more livable and our world a cleaner place for our children and grandchildren.

On this day, we remember our opportunity to preserve the great American landscape through recycling. By continuing to work together, we can maintain and enjoy the beauty of our land for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2008, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 18, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

The President's Radio Address

November 14, 2008

Good morning. This weekend, I am hosting a summit on the global financial crisis with leaders of developed and developing nations. By working together, I'm confident that with time we can overcome this crisis and return our economies to the path of growth and vitality.

I know many of you listening are worried about the challenges facing our economy. Stock market declines have eroded the value of retirement accounts and pension funds. The tightening of credit has made it harder for families to borrow money for cars, homes, and education. Businesses have found it harder to get loans to expand their operations and create jobs. Many nations have suffered job losses and have serious concerns about the worsening economy.

Nations around the world have responded to this situation with bold measures, and our actions are having an impact. Credit markets are beginning to thaw, and businesses are gaining access to essential short-term financing. It will require more time for these improvements to fully take hold, and there will be more difficult days ahead. But the United States and our partners are taking the right steps to get through the crisis.

As we address the current crisis, we also need to make broader reforms to adapt our financial systems to the 21st century. So during this summit, I will work with other leaders to establish principles for reform, such as making markets more transparent and ensuring that markets, firms, and financial products are properly regulated.

All these steps will require decisive actions from governments around the world. At the

same time, we must recognize that government intervention is not a cure-all. While reforms in the financial sector are essential, the long-term solution to today's problems is sustained economic growth. And the surest path to that growth is free markets and free people.

This is a decisive moment for the global economy. In the wake of the financial crisis, voices from the left and right are equating the free enterprise system with greed, exploitation, and failure. It is true that this crisis included failures by lenders and borrowers, by financial firms, by governments, and independent regulators. But the crisis was not a failure of the free market system. And the answer is not to try to reinvent that system. It is to fix the problems we face, make the reforms we need, and move forward with the free market principles that have delivered prosperity and hope to people around the world.

The benefits of free market capitalism have been proven across time, geography, and culture. Around the world, free market capitalism has allowed once impoverished nations to develop large and prosperous economies. And here at home, free market capitalism is what transformed America from a rugged frontier to the greatest economic power in history.

Just as important as maintaining free markets within countries is maintaining the free movement of goods and services between countries. There are many ways for nations to demonstrate their commitment to open markets. The United States Congress can take the lead by approving free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea before adjourning for the year.

In the long run, Americans can be confident in the future of our economy. We will work with our partners around the world to address the problems in the global financial system. We will strengthen our economy, and we will continue to lead the world toward prosperity and peace.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on November 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 14. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

November 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where he visited with wounded U.S. military personnel and presented Purple Heart medals to six service members. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, on the South Portico, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted President-elect Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle. Then, in the Diplomatic Reception Room, they all met with Rear Adm. Stephen W. Rochon, USCG (Ret.), Director of the Executive Residence and Chief Usher. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President-elect Obama.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Camp David, MD, on November 16.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the Baku Energy Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 14: Samuel W. Bodman (head of delegation); Anne E. Derse; and C. Boyden Gray.

The President announced the designation of Robert O. Blake, Jr., as his representative to attend the inauguration of President-elect Mohamed Nasheed of Maldives in Male, Maldives, on November 11.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Green to be U.S. Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to designate John Kim Cook as Small State and Rural Advocate at the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the Department of Homeland Security.

November 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to New York City. While en route aboard Air Force One, he met with CPO Shenequa Cox, USN; PO1 Christopher O. Hutto, USCG; S. Sgt. Michael Noyce-Merino, USA; SrA. Alicia Goetschel, USAF; and Sgt. John Badon, USMC.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush toured the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. During the visit they met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Peter Cea.

In the afternoon, the President met with family members of military personnel killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. He then participated in an interview with CNN. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

November 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of an interview with Dorothy Bush Koch for StoryCorps.

November 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to New York City, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jane Cosco. They then traveled to United Nations Headquarters.

Later in the morning, the President participated in a photo opportunity and met with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations. Later, he traveled to the New York Palace Hotel.

In the afternoon, the President met with King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. He then traveled to the Federal Hall National Memorial. Later, he traveled to Wall Street, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and a tornado from September 11–24.

The President announced his intention to appoint Cornelius Williams Ruth as Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (United States and Mexico).

The President announced his intention to appoint R. Bruce LaBoon as a member of the Board of Directors of the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center.

The President announced his intention to designate Deborah Garza as Acting Assistant Attorney General (Antitrust Division) at the Department of Justice.

November 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, on the North Portico, the President greeted world leaders participating in the summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy. Later, in the State Dining Room, he hosted a working dinner for the leaders.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neil M. Barofsky to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steve A. Linick to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

Released November 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released November 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price and Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs David H. McCormick on the financial markets and world economy summit

Released November 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Advance text of the President's remarks to the Manhattan Institute

Released November 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush Welcomes World Leaders to the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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